

This is Mrs. Stewart's last yr. report
of her work, - which will give you an
idea of the kind of work done in our
house.

Hankow, China,

July 1918.

To the FRIENDS IN AMERICA,

My dear

Since my return from furlough, I have
been so busy that I have written very few
letters. Now I am having this circular
letter printed to send to you that you
may know that my silence has not meant
that I have forgotten you. I am embody-
ing my annual report to Bishop Roots for
it tells in detail the kind of work that I
have done, and the problems connected
with it. Remembering your interest in
what I was able to tell you of our work
here, and of my share in it, I have thought
that you might like to read this report.

No doubt much of your time is given up
to active Red Cross work. We, too, in
Hankow are fully organized with our share
of knitting and sewing, and also give our
monthly subscriptions to the American
Red Cross.

So many pleasant memories of my furlough come to my mind as I read the accounts in the Church papers of the various happenings in the various dioceses. I can often picture the places and the people quite distinctly, and feel that they are my friends.

You might be interested in some personal news. My "Plum-Blossom Glorious" is growing to be a big girl. She is nine years old now. She does well at school and is as happy as can be. Two weeks ago I adopted my third daughter. She is four and a half years old. Her family are very poor and when she was born they wished to give her away. I persuaded them to keep her and promised to help her when she was older. I have always clothed her, and now she has come to live with me. She is a real bright and attractive child, and is now getting happy in her new surroundings. The oldest girl has been my daughter for eleven years.

She is now grown up and is a graduate of St. Hilda's School. She is a teacher and I am very pleased with her progress.

Bishop Roots has just told me that he wishes me to move to Changsha in September. The opportunity for evangelistic work there is very wonderful and in many ways I am glad to go, although in other ways I am sorry to give up the Day School. It has been interesting to organize our schools and get them graded and enrolled in the Central China Christian Educational Association. I will no doubt have a close point of contact with our schools in Changsha, but the Bishop's idea is to appoint me primarily for the parish work for women. I will be glad to have a chance to concentrate on one parish, because for several years my work has been so widely spread that I have felt that it necessarily lacked depth. May I ask your prayers for me in the new work that I am to undertake, and also for this work

which I am leaving, and in which I cannot fail to keep interested. The Bishop has not yet appointed my successor.

With all good wishes for your parish and also diocesan work, I am most sincerely yours.

GERTRUDE STEWART.

AMERICAN CHURCH MISSION,
Hankow, China,
July 20th 1918.

My dear BISHOP ROOTS,

I herewith submit to you my report for the year June 1917 to June 1918.

I reached Hankow from America on August 24. I was glad to have a few free days before school opened, to see my Chinese friends and to find out what new duties awaited me. This has been the busiest year that I have spent in China. Trying to do two people's work is always

difficult, and I have found the double duties that belong to Deaconess Hart and myself especially heavy. I am indeed grateful for God's care and guidance during these months. Now as the time for Deaconess Hart's return gets nearer, it is a wonderful relief to think of relinquishing some of many cares. *See. Hart's School*

- ✓ **1. St. Phoebe's Training School for Deaconesses and Other Church Workers.** This institution is divided, as you know, into three distinct departments—(A) The Deaconess Training Class, (B) The Bible Women's Class (C) The Women's School.

✓ (A) **The Deaconess Training Class.** The four regular students in this class have been Mrs. Tsen of the Shanghai District, Miss Lieo, Miss Han, and Miss Pao. Miss Pao has had to give up her work due to tuberculosis. The doctors think there is no chance for her recovery. She has gone home to the country and seems very brave in her Christian

faith as she waits for her release. We have arranged through a group of friends to give her a monthly allowance, which is sufficient to supply extra things for her comfort. A new student has been added this year. She is the wife of one of the men in All Saint's Divinity School, one from Bishop Banister's Diocese. She has lived outside because she has a young baby. (Her mother-in-law has been very useful in caring for their home.) She had her preliminary education in a Hunan Mission School, and gives the promise of being a very fine wife for a clergyman. The Instructors in St. Phoebe's have been the Rev. S. H. Littell in Church History; the Rev. F. H. Lieo in the Minor Prophets, the Book of Revelations, and Comparative Religions; Mr. Tseo in Chinese Classics and Composition; Miss Couch in English; Miss Elizabeth Lieo in Music; and myself in Methods of Teaching the Catechism. The students have helped in

parish work in All Saint's and the Chapel of the Heavenly Way. They are a group of earnest Christian women and we can look forward to their work in the Church with sure confidence.

✓ (B) **The Bible Women's Class** There are six women taking this course. They are Mrs. Wu, of Anking, Mrs. Hsu the wife of a student Catechist (she had a primary school education in the Scotch Mission School in Ichang) Mrs. Li, Mrs. Tsang, Miss Ts'en Pi Hsiao and Miss Yin Tsao Seo. They are also an earnest group of women. Their Instructors have been the Rev. Stephen Tsang in "An Introduction to the Scriptures" and "The Preparation for the Kingdom"; Mr. Tseo in Chinese writing and Composition; Mrs. Ts'en, the matron, in Hygiene; and myself in Dr. Jackson's "Life of Our Lord." The students have had practical work of various kinds—the care of the chapel, as well as duties in the services, making the

communion wafers, helping with the church laundry, etc. This is their first year they have had no outside parish duties. This is the first class to enter the school under the new requirement, namely a general primary school education as a foundation. There is a vast difference between this class and the classes of former years. Instead of just struggling to read the lesson material, they can take good assignments and written examinations. Does this not show that it was wise to have raised the standard? I hope that we may continue to raise it every few years, until the old type of a parish Bible Woman is indeed a thing of the past.

✓ (C) **The Women's School.** This department furnishes the great part of the registration in the whole school. It also furnishes practically all cases of discipline, of which we have had several trying ones to settle. There have been forty-six board-

ing and thirteen day pupils this last term. There have been six classes doing the regular work of the curriculum of the Educational Association, and being registered for the annual union examinations. We tried the experiment this year of combining the sixth year class with St. Lois' sixth class. Now due to Miss Clark's furlough, St. Lois School is to be in my charge. Deaconess Hart and I are planning to join all upper primary classes as well as English and Music. We hope thus to save on the teaching staff and to have better results in other ways also. At Easter five women were baptized. The course of study in Scripture and the daily chapel services help to teach the Christian truth to all in the school. I have tried to come into personal and social touch with the women, although my many outside duties have allowed me very little time for this. By having taught three regular classes, and by having substituted for others at

The music will be my job.

times, I have known some of the women in class work. We have entertained all the women in our home once each term, sometimes in larger groups, having music and serving refreshments to them. They have seemed to appreciate these evenings. You may not realize the different types of women in this school. A good many are the wives of prosperous business men. They form the stylish part of the school, and it is a real effort to try to tone this down. There are a good many big girls (over sixteen years old) who have just begun to study. There are also several Christian widows, who are hoping later to take the training as Bible Women. Were it not that the Women's School can give this preliminary work, we would have found it almost impossible to have made the requirement for entrance into the Bible Women's class as high as it is now.

There are several extra things connected with this school. One is the

Church Laundry and another is the Ecclesiastical Embroidery Department. The latter has done good work and we have filled rather large orders for friends in America this year as well as local orders for various things for church use. The accounts for these different things as well as the school accounts, fees, board, etc. take some time to do. Both Mr. Hollander and Miss Kay have been most kind to me in helping me to do this correctly. At the end of the first term when I had balanced accounts with Mr. Hollander, he made me most happy by saying I had been a good book-keeper.

We have had several emergencies during the year. The housing and boarding of the thirty left-over St. Hilda's girls, who had to refugee here for two months was the chief one. This meant almost doubling the kitchen work. The matron of our school, Mrs. Ts'en has done her part well. Without the help of the Chin-

ese teachers it would have been impossible to have carried on the work of the school. All of this is Deaconess Hart's work, hence it will be indeed a great relief to me to shift it back to her at the end of the summer

2. The Work of the Superintendent of Primary Day Schools. This is counted as my own main work. It has suffered greatly from lack of attention, but the important things connected with it have had to be done. The office work has become very important. There are often circular letters to be sent out giving some notice or criticism or advice. A fine copying machine for Chinese writing that I bought in Japan with "specials," has been of the greatest help to Mr. Yang in his share of the work. My father's gift of a typewriter to me has also been invaluable to me. I could never have accomplished the work that has been necessary without it. During the autumn term I visited all

the Wu-Han day schools with Mr. Yang. He also visited the schools in Changsha and in Changteh and in the Hsint'i group. Many of our schools were broken up during January and February, due to political unrest, so that several were unable to take the midyear examinations. The Educational Association only issues annual examinations so that the midyear exams, are all dependent on us—that is we issue questions and correct papers, make the report cards, etc. During most of the Chinese New Year vacation my study was occupied by a group of busy teachers all helping me do this extra work. During the spring term Mr. Yang has visited the local schools and also the Hanch'uan group. This is the first year that we have failed to visit all the schools in the District, but it has been impossible to do so. I had the great pleasure of a two weeks' visit in Peking. I was able to see a number of Mission schools and also

some very good government schools in session. Mr. Yang was a delegate to the General Synod in Shanghai and was away for two weeks or more. We have registered for the Annual Examinations 1269 pupils representing 53 schools. That means that there are still a few country schools not yet graded. When we consider that it is only three and a half years since we began to have any general charge of the day schools, it does show real result of progress. The objections made at first are no longer mentioned. Even the clergy act as if they appreciate our work at times. It has been a delicate question about authority—to do as one chooses in ones own parish. We have met a little difficulty in enforcing the rule concerning holidays. Last autumn I offered a bitter complaint when I found five day schools in Wuchang closed and the teachers, men and women, attending the meeting of the *Baby's Branch* of the Auxiliary. Some

had taken their own children to be sure, but hundreds of children were having a holiday not on the list allowed by our Board of Education.

There are a good many difficulties connected with this work on its financial side. The single item of registration for the exams, was \$70.30, which I had to advance personally. Then I had to send out many bills and collect the money in sums from \$1.00 to \$5.60, etc. losing of course on all the odd change given to me, and waiting some weeks for some payments. The general expenses for paper, stamps exam envelopes (for answers to be returned for correction) etc. has been over \$50.00. This has been met by me personally, and has been met thus each year. Is this a right way to carry on general work? I know that you have asked the Board for an appropriation for this work, but it has not been granted yet and I think is not sufficient even if we do get it next year.

There should be funds in the hands of the Supt. of Schools to allow the meeting of bigger things, the travel expense to teachers sent to examine schools, according to the requirements of the Educational Association. This year one school could not take the examinations because we could not arrange to send a qualified person there to conduct the exams. When I speak or write to those in direct charge of the schools concerned they reply: "Well I have no funds for that." I would like to suggest a plan and to ask your help in carrying it out if you approve of it. Would it not be possible to have every day school appropriation for the whole District—boys' and girls' schools considered separately, although they are in the same parish—assessed a certain sum, say \$3.00, to be deducted by the Treasurer in the Office, at first of September each year, to be drawn on for the general needs. The registration fees could be met then and a

great saving in time and letter writing would result. Please let me hear from you in regard to this.

I have been very much interested in the plans for the Union Normal School and I feel that Mr. Chapman is wise in all his requirements for entrance. I hope that we can comply with the new rules and that our day schools will soon be freed from the old fashioned type of untrained or half trained teachers.

This year I have tried to have a little social intercourse with the teachers and their families. Last autumn I entertained the men teachers and their wives and children, at an afternoon party. About seventy came. It was a great success. Some one remarked that it looked like a county fair. I think that all this helps us to do our work better. It gave me the chance to meet some of the wives for the first time. I entertained the women teachers separately. Of course I always

know the women teachers more intimately, as they have often been our school girls.

Mr. Yang, my assistant, plans to enter the Divinity School this autumn. He is a very devout and capable man. I am truly sorry to have him give up this work, but I would not hinder him in answering the call he feels to higher work. The big question now is who can take his place? I am rather dreading all the work of training a new man next term.

3. Miscellaneous Work. (*A*) *Language Study.* As an examiner I have given several examinations to some of our people in the subjects for which I am responsible—that is Mateer and the National Readers. I was glad to have the privilege of visiting the Peking Language School, and was most delighted with the progress that the students had made. I think it is wise to send our new people to the school for they have good teachers and the incentive to

hard work that study in a class is sure to give.

(B.) **The Hospital Committee.** I have been a useless member of this committee as I have been unable to attend all the meetings or to do any outside work in the interest of the hospital. I hope that you will consider appointing another person in my place, one who can do more for the work there.

(C.) **The Friendly Committee on Families of Workers.** We have had several meetings and are expecting to send you in almost at once a report of our investigation and some suggestions of work for the training of the wives. There are many family difficulties, but I think that the chief difficulty will be a financial one. I think that perhaps the best result of these investigations will be a more careful consideration of candidates for training by those who have the power of recommending men for the training of various kinds,

and that if the conditions cannot be met, then the man will not be trained. It will be a great step forward in all our work when we know that the wife of a new worker will be a help and not a hindrance, to the work to which her husband is appointed.

With many thanks to you, dear Bishop, for the sympathy which you always show in the problems that confront me in my work, and for your willingness to try and help me to solve them, and with a real sense of my own unworthiness to be here "doing my bit" in this field, I am

Sincerely yours,

GERTRUDE STEWART.